Air Rule Interpretation Summary Form

Code Number	60LLL.003
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Applicability of 40 CFR, Subpart LLL to sweetening unit primarily to remove C02 from	May 28, 1999
natural gas	

Rule/Regulation Citation(s):	Federal Rule: X State Regulation: Description:
40 C.F.R. 60, Subpart LLL § 60.640	Standards of Performance for Onshore Natural Gas Processing: SO ₂ Emissions

Interpretation Request:

Is Title 40 Code of Federal Regulation (C.F.R.) Part 60, Subpart LLL applicable to a facility that is processing natural gas by primarily removing carbon dioxide (CO₂)? The natural gas that is processed at the facility only contains a small percentage of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S); however, 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart LLL does not define sour natural gas.

Determination:

Each sweetening unit (process device that removes H_2S and CO_2 contents from sour natural gas) at facilities that process natural gas are subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subpart LLL. A sour natural gas stream is considered to be natural gas with a H_2S concentration greater than 0.25 grains per 100 standard cubic feet.

It should be noted, Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (Tex. Admin. Code) § 101.1 defines sour gas as "any natural gas containing more than 1.5 grains of hydrogen sulfide per 100 cubic feet, or more than 30 grains of total sulfur per 100 cubic feet." Therefore, the state and federal definitions of sour gas are different.

Bibliography:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, SO₂ Emissions in Natural Gas Production Industry -- Background Information for Proposed Standards. EPA-450/3-82-023a, Pg. 3-3

49 Fed. Reg. 2657 (January 20, 1984).

Title 40 C.F.R. § 60.640. (July 1, 1997)

Title 40 C.F.R. § 60.641. (July 1, 1997)

Title 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 101.1. (January 8, 1996)

Please note, in the event that an external customer feels that this rule interpretation is in error or a source of information has been overlooked which would change the determination, a request for reconsideration may be submitted. Requests must be submitted on a Reconsideration Process Form which is available at the TNRCC's homepage: http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/air/opd/rimhmpg.htm, or from any of the air rule interpretation team members.